

Western Ecological Research Center <http://www.werc.usgs.gov>

Nevada Field Station

The Mojave Desert encompasses arid lands from southern Nevada and parts of southern California northward to Death Valley National Park. Within it is Las Vegas, the fastest-growing municipality in the nation. Included also are Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the Mojave National Preserve, all areas that receive enormous numbers of visitors annually. Urban growth, increasing recreational use, and increasing demands for natural resources threaten the integrity of natural ecosystems throughout the Mojave Desert. Loss of wildlife habitat, degradation of air quality, and depletion of water resources are important conservation issues.

Started at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1972, the Nevada Field Station is located in the Department of Biological Sciences, in the College of Sciences. Field station scientists participate on the Implementation and Monitoring Committee for the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, UNLV, and University of Nevada, Reno. The mission of the field station is to provide research of the highest quality and to help develop conservation strategies for public land management agencies within the Mojave Desert.

Examples of ongoing research conducted under the auspices of the field station include survivorship and long-term monitoring for desert tortoises in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, studies of sensitive riparian bird species in Clark County, Nev., riparian habitat ecology, amphibian genetic analyses, and the ecology and monitoring of desert bighorn sheep.



K. Longshore

Science Expertise

Charles L. Douglas, Ph.D., Research Ecologist, Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, UNLV

- Vertebrate ecology and ecosystem management
- Ecology and management of desert bighorn sheep
- Geographic information system landscape modeling of bighorn habitat
- Faunal identification from archaeological sites
- Effects of feral burros on native ungulates

Kathleen Longshore, M.S., Research Associate, Dept. of Biological Sciences, UNLV

- Behavior and ecology of desert bighorn sheep
- Ecology and conservation of threatened and endangered species

For more information, contact:

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